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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU COMPLETES REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES FOR ADVANCED WIRELESS SERVICES

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) completed its review of the applications for the Advanced Wireless Services (AWS) licenses won in Auction No. 66, which closed on September 18, 2006. With the Public Notice released today, the Bureau has granted all of the 1,087 licenses won in the auction, with the exception of one license subject to a September 29, 2007 deadline for the applicant to file a certification to qualify for a Tribal Land Bidding Credit. The Bureau completed its review of AWS applications in just over six months from October 4, 2006, when the winning bidders in the auction submitted their long-form license applications to the FCC.

The grant of these licenses will promote the further deployment of broadband services across the United States, as they can be used to provide a wide array of innovative wireless services and technologies, including voice, data, video, and other wireless broadband services. Fifty-eight of the 107 applicants receiving AWS licenses are small and very small businesses that qualified for a designated entity bidding credit.

The \$13.7 billion in auction revenue collected from Auction No. 66 nearly equals the approximately \$14 billion in total revenue from all other FCC auctions combined and nearly doubles the amount of auction revenue transferred to the U.S. Treasury. This revenue also will fully fund the estimated cost of relocating the federal government operations currently occupying the lower half of the AWS band (1710-1755 MHz), as required by the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA).

Action by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau on April 30, 2007, by Public Notice (DA 07-1953).

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